[Shri Raghunath Jha]

Kerosene Oil in the same way as it was lifted on sugar and the problem was resolved. Black marketing would be checked automatically. The Government should lift the control, this is my demand.

SHRI BHUVANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA (Hazaribagh): Mr. Speaker, Sir, this time more than one dozen districts of Jharkhand are reeling under famine and drought and not even a seed of grains has been sowed in more than half a dozen districts as a result of which people are facing starvation in those areas. More than hundred people have died of starvation and one and a half lakh population is migrating from Jharkhand. The State Government is helpless. A team of the Central Government went there and conducted a survey as well. The yield in Garhwa, Palamu, Latehar, Hazaribagh, Chapra districts etc. has not even been ten per cent and the Government has not been able to control the situation and the people are dying of starvation that is why through you, I would request the Union Government that it should save the people from starving and stop them from migrating by giving a special package.

SHRIMATI KALPANA RAMESH NARHIRE (Osmanabad): Hon. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to draw the attention of the Hon. Prime Minister and the Hon. Minister of Water Resources towards the water crisis in Maharashtra. There is acute shortage of water in the State due to rains not coming in time during the last three years as a result of which the farmers are not getting water for irrigation and the public for drinking. Due to shortage of water, the farmers are under heavy debts and suffering loss of lacs of rupees in their crops. There are at least 15 sugar factories in my constituency in which thousands of people work. But sugarcane production is going down due to scanty rains and people are not getting work as the sugar factories are not operating. This way, thousands of workers have been rendered jobless. Therefore, through you, Sir, I would like to know from the Hon. Minister as to what effective steps have been taken for solving the water crisis and the problem of unemployment.

SHRIMATI JYOTIRMOYEE SIKDAR (Krishna Nagar): Hon. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to draw the attention of the House towards the issue of pension of the sports persons. The Government had formulated a scheme in the year 1994, for giving pension to the sports persons who would win gold Medals in Olympics, Asian Games or world championships. Approximately 250 sports persons were getting pension under this scheme but in 2004. the Govt. revised the scheme and decided to exclude such sports persons as were in jobs. For example, I would like to mention that the Indian Kabaddi team had won the Gold Medal in 2002. Five Members of this team applied for pension in 2003. But these persons are not getting pension because they are in jobs as per the said scheme revised in 2004. Through you, Sir, I would like to urge upon the Government to reconsider their decision and implement the earlier scheme of 1994 so that the medal winners of the country could get the benefit of pension.

MR. SPEAKER: Today few male Members will get an opportunity to speak.

[English]

SHRIMATI MANORAMA MADHAVRAJ (Udupi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, earlier, due to controversies and stiff public resistance, the coal-based thermal power project by Cogentrix Corporation of US proposed at Mangalore had to be shelved. Now, one Nagarjuna Power Corporation Limited is proceeding with a coal-based thermal power plant on the same location without any valid mandatory clearances from the competent authorities like CEA and KERC. This Project is likely to cause severe ecological and environmental damage both to vegetation and marine life in the area. The people of this region have been agitating against this Project. On the countrary, the people would welcome a project mooted by ONGC